

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) An isolated antibody ~~against that specifically binds to a~~ polypeptide ~~encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 17~~ consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 but not to a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

24-33. (Cancelled)

34. (New) The antibody of claim 23, wherein the antibody specifically binds to a C-terminal amino acid sequence of a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

35. (New) The antibody of claim 34, wherein the C-terminal amino acid sequence consists of five or more contiguous amino acids at positions 1283 to 1295 of the polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

36. (New) An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a C-terminal amino acid sequence of a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

37. (New) The antibody of claim 36, wherein the C-terminal amino acid sequence consists of five or more contiguous amino acids at positions 1283 to 1295 of the polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

38. (New) A method for preparing an antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, said method comprising:

(a) immunizing a non-human animal with a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 or a C-terminal peptide thereof; and

(b) collecting an antibody from said immunized animal, or preparing a cell that produces an antibody from said immunized animal, and collecting the antibody from a culture of said cell.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the C-terminal amino acid sequence comprises five or more contiguous amino acids at positions 1283 to 1295 of the polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.